

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for regulating e-mail, comprising:
maintaining profile information for a plurality of registered e-mail sources that have registered to forward e-mail to a destination, said profile information comprising for each registered e-mail source statistics regarding e-mails previously received from the registered e-mail source;
maintaining category information for a plurality of e-mail source categories, said category information comprising for each e-mail source category statistics regarding e-mails previously received from the e-mail source category;
receiving an e-mail;
identifying ~~a~~ an e-mail source for ~~of~~ the e-mail;
determining from the profile information if the e-mail source is a registered source;
if the e-mail source is a registered source,
updating the profile information ~~aggregate e-mail statistics~~ maintained for the e-mail source to reflect receipt of the e-mail;
comparing the profile information for the e-mail source ~~aggregate e-mail statistics~~ to target e-mail statistics; and
if the profile information for the e-mail source is ~~aggregate e-mail statistics~~ are not acceptable in comparison to the target e-mail statistics, taking a remedial action;
and
if the e-mail source is not a registered source, identifying one of said plurality of e-mail source categories,
updating the category information for the identified e-mail source category to reflect receipt of the e-mail,
comparing the category information for the identified e-mail source category to target e-mail statistics, and
if the category information for the identified e-mail source category is not acceptable in comparison to the target e-mail statistics, taking a remedial action.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying a an e-mail source of the e-mail comprises identifying the domain name from which the e-mail was received.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein updating the profile information ~~aggregate e-mail statistics~~ maintained for the e-mail source to reflect receipt of the e-mail comprises updating a counter of the number of e-mails received from the e-mail source.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein comparing the profile information for the e-mail source ~~aggregate e-mail statistics~~ to target e-mail statistics comprises comparing the counter of the number of e-mails received from the e-mail source to a benchmark value for the counter.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein taking remedial action comprises sending an e-mail to at least one of the postmaster and administrator at the e-mail source.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein taking remedial action comprises returning the e-mail to the e-mail source.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein updating the category information for the identified e-mail source category comprises updating a counter of the number of e-mails received from e-mail sources in the identified e-mail source category ~~further comprising identifying for the e-mail source, a corresponding source group having target e-mail statistics.~~

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
identifying a profile of acceptable e-mail characteristics for e-mails received from the e-mail source;

comparing the e-mail to the profile of acceptable e-mail characteristics;

if the e-mail is not acceptable in comparison to the acceptable e-mail characteristics, notifying at least one of the postmaster and administrators at the e-mail source.

9. (original) A computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions for performing the method as recited in claim 1.

10. (currently amended) A method for regulating e-mail, comprising:
maintaining statistics regarding e-mails that are received from each of a plurality of e-mail sources that are registered to send e-mails;

maintaining statistics regarding e-mails that are received from each of a plurality of e-mail source categories;

receiving an e-mail;

identifying ~~a~~ an e-mail source ~~of~~ for the e-mail;

determining if the e-mail source is one of the plurality of e-mail sources that are registered to send e-mails;

if the e-mail source is one of a plurality of e-mail sources that are registered,

updating ~~aggregate e-mail~~ the statistics maintained for the registered e-mail source to reflect receipt of the e-mail,; and

comparing the statistics maintained for the registered e-mail with a first target, and

if the comparison of the statistics maintained for the registered e-mail with the first target is not satisfactory, notifying at least one of the postmaster and administrator at the e-mail source; and

if the e-mail source is not one of the plurality of e-mail sources that are registered,

identifying for the e-mail source, one of the plurality of e-mail source categories, ~~a corresponding source group having target e-mail statistics;~~

updating statistics maintained for the one of the plurality of e-mail source categories to reflect receipt of the e-mail, and

comparing the ~~aggregate e-mail~~ statistics maintained for the one of the plurality of e-mail source categories with the ~~source group~~ a second target e-mail statistics,; and

if the comparison of the aggregate e-mail statistics maintained for the one of the plurality of e-mail source categories with the second target is not satisfactory ~~do not fall within the source group target e-mail statistics~~, notifying at least one of the postmaster and administrator at the e-mail source.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein updating ~~aggregate e-mail~~ statistics comprises updating a statistic tracking e-mail volume received from the e-mail source to reflect receipt of the e-mail,

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
identifying a profile of acceptable e-mail characteristics for e-mails received from the e-mail source;
comparing the e-mail to the profile of acceptable e-mail characteristics; and
if the e-mail is not acceptable in comparison to the acceptable e-mail characteristics, notifying administrators at the e-mail source.

13. (currently amended) A method for regulating e-mails, comprising:
maintaining statistics regarding e-mails that are received from each of a plurality of e-mail sources that are registered to send e-mails;
maintaining statistics regarding e-mails that are received from each of a plurality of e-mail source categories;
comparing the statistics regarding e-mails that are received to benchmark values; and
if the statistics regarding e-mails do not comply with the benchmark values, taking remedial action.

14. (currently amended) A method for regulating electronic messages, comprising:
maintaining statistics regarding electronic messages that are received from each of a plurality of electronic message sources that are registered to transmit electronic messages;
maintaining statistics regarding electronic messages that are received from each of a plurality of electronic message source categories;

receiving an electronic message;
identifying a source of the electronic message;
determining if the electronic message source is one of the plurality of electronic message sources that are registered to transmit electronic messages;
if the electronic message source is one of a plurality of e-mail sources that are registered,

updating ~~aggregate electronic message~~ the statistics maintained for the one of the plurality of electronic message sources to reflect receipt of the electronic message;
~~comparing the aggregate electronic message statistics to target electronic message statistics;~~ and

if the ~~aggregate electronic message~~ updated statistics maintained for the electronic message source are not acceptable in comparison to the target electronic message statistics, taking a remedial action;

if the electronic message source is not one of a plurality of e-mail sources that are registered,

updating statistics maintained for one of the plurality of electronic message source categories to reflect receipt of the electronic message, and

if the ~~aggregate electronic message~~ updated statistics maintained for the one of the plurality of electronic message source categories are not acceptable in comparison to target electronic message statistics, taking a remedial action.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the electronic message is an e-mail.

16. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the electronic message is an instant message.